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COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Thirty-fifth session
25 February-6 March 1997
Agenda item 6

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

DRAFT REPORT

Chapter ___

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Rapporteur: Mr. Santiago Apunte Franco (Ecuador)

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission for Social Development held its thirty-fifth session at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 25 February to 6 March 1997. The Commission held ___ meetings (1st to ___) and a number of informal meetings.

B. Attendance

2. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/7 of 22 July 1996, the Commission is composed of 46 States Members of the United Nations, elected on the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

3. The session was attended by ___ States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States and representatives of specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. A list of participants is given in annex ___ to the present report.

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C. Election of officers

4. At its 1st meeting, on 25 February 1997, the Commission elected by acclamation Mr. Ion Gorita (Romania) as Chairman.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Commission elected the following officers:

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Seyed H. Resvani (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Mr. Santiago Apunte Franco (Ecuador)
Mr. Aurelio Fernandez (Spain)

6. At its 3rd meeting, on 26 February 1997, the Commission elected Mr. Santiago Apunte Franco as Vice-Chairman cum Rapporteur by acclamation.

7. At its 4th meeting, on 26 February 1997, the Commission elected Mr. Ahmed Abdel Halim (Sudan) as Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

D. Agenda

8. At its 1st meeting, on 25 February, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda for the session contained in document E/CN.5/1997/1 (see annex ___ to the present report).

E. Organization of work

9. At the same meeting, the Commission approved its organization of work of the session (see E/CN.5/1997/L.1), as orally amended.

F. Opening statements

10. At its 1st meeting, on 25 February, the Commission heard an opening statement by the temporary Chairman, Mr. Koos Richelle (Netherlands).

11. At the same meeting, the Commission heard a statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat.

G. Appointment of the chairmen of the working groups

12. At its 3rd meeting, on 26 February, the Commission endorsed the appointment of Mrs. Julia Tavares de Alvarez (Dominican Republic) and Mr. Aurelio Fernandez (Spain) as co-chairpersons of the in-session Working Group on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing and Preparations for the International Year of Older Persons.

H. Documentation

13. The documents before the Commission at its thirty-fifth session are listed in annex ___ to the present report.

I. Panel discussions and dialogue

14. At its 2nd meeting, on 25 February, the chairpersons of the inter-agency task forces on the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development addressed the Commission. Mr. James Gustave Speth, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, acted as moderator.

15. At the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development made a statement.

16. Also at the same meeting, members of the Commission held a general exchange of views with the chairpersons.

17. The following chairpersons of the inter-agency task forces made presentations:

Ms. Katherine Hagen, Deputy Director-General of the International Labour Office and Chairperson of the Task Force on Employment and Sustainable Development;

Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund and Chairperson of the Task Force on Basic Social Services;

Mr. John Page, Chief Economist, Middle East and North Africa region of the World Bank and Chairperson of the Subgroup on the Economic and Social Environment;

Ms. Kristen Timothy, Deputy Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat and Secretary of the Steering Committee for the Advancement of Women.

18. At its 3rd and 5th meetings, on 26 and 27 February 1997, the Commission held two panel discussions on the theme "Productive employment and sustainable livelihoods".

Panel Discussion I

19. Mr. John Langmore, Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the United Nations Secretariat, acted as moderator.

20. The following panel members addressed the Commission:

Mr. Bill Jordan, President, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (Belgium);

Mr. Ashraf Tabani, President, Employers' Federation of Pakistan;

Ms. Isabelle Grunberg, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Development Studies of the United Nations Development Programme;

Mr. Jesus Aguilar Cruz, Director, ALTERNATIVA, Centro de Investigación Social y Educación Popular (Peru).

21. Members of the Commission held a general exchange of views with the panel members.

Panel Discussion II

22. Ms. Katherine Hagen, Deputy Director-General of the International Labour Office, and Mr. Michel Hansenne, Director-General of the International Labour Organization, acted as moderators.

23. The following panel members addressed the Commission:

Mr. Ralph Willis, Member of Parliament, former Federal Treasurer, former Minister of Finance, former Minister of Employment and Industrial Relations (Australia);

Mr. David Boateng, Minister for Employment and Social Welfare (Ghana);

Ms. Magda Kosa Kovacs, Member of Parliament, former Minister of Labour, Executive Vice-Chairman of the Hungarian Socialist Party (Hungary);

Mr. Gustavo Yamada, Vice-Minister of Social Promotion, Ministry of Labour and Social Promotion (Peru).

24. Members of the Commission had a general exchange of views with panel members.

J. Consultations with non-governmental organizations

25. In accordance with rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975/Rev.1), representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council made statements:

[To be completed]

26. Written statements submitted by non-governmental organizations are listed in annex ___ to the present report.